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Subject: Air Program Updates

Updates

- **SSM Action:** EPA has decided to partially grant the petition and use its discretion to reconsider the Texas SIP call included as part of the 2015 SSM SIP Action. EPA Region 6 sent a letter to the State of Texas to let them know of the partial grant, which may potentially entail Region 6 proposing an action inconsistent with EPA's interpretation in the 2015 SSM SIP Action. The agency also notified the court in a status report. Both the letter to Texas and status report to the court are attached as one document.
- **Maintenance Receptor Memo:** EPA released a memorandum (attached) to present information that states may consider as they evaluate the status of potential maintenance receptors with respect to the 2015 O₃ NAAQS based on EPA's 2023 modeling. In brief the document discusses (1) using alternative technical methods for projecting whether future air quality warrants identifying monitors as maintenance receptors and (2) considering current monitoring data when identifying monitoring sites that although projected to be in attainment should be identified as maintenance receptors because of the risk that they could exceed the NAAQS due to year-to-year (i.e., inter-annual) variability in meteorological conditions. Along with two supporting data files, the memo is available on the [web](#).
- **Draft PM ISA:** EPA announced the availability of the document, *Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft)*. The Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Particulate Matter (PM) document is a concise synthesis and evaluation of the most policy-relevant science, and has been prepared as part of the review of the primary (health-based) and secondary (welfare-based) NAAQS for PM under the CAA. This ISA updates the state of the science that was available for the 2009 PM ISA, which informed decisions on the primary and secondary PM NAAQS in 24 the review completed in 2012. When final, the PM ISA, in conjunction with additional technical and policy assessments, will provide the scientific basis for EPA's decision on whether the current primary and secondary air quality standards for PM sufficiently protects public health and welfare. The ecological effects of PM are being considered in a separate ISA, the Integrated Science Assessment for Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur, and PM (Ecological Criteria) (Second External Review Draft) that is also in draft development. More information available [here](#). A-E will host an Overview of Main Conclusions of the Draft Particulate Matter Integrated Science Assessment Webinar (speaker: Jason Sacks, NCEA) on November 7th. Attached (*A-E Connections Call.ics*) is the calendar invite that you can add to your calendar for this event.
- **GHG Reporting Data:** The EPA released 2017 greenhouse gas (GHG) data collected under the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). For reporting year (RY) 2017, over 8,000 facilities and suppliers reported to the greenhouse gas reporting program. The GHGRP does not represent total U.S. GHG emissions, but provides facility level data for large sources of direct emissions, thus representing the majority of U.S. GHG emissions. The GHGRP data collected from direct emitters represent about half of all U.S. emissions. The trends in the data are shown in the table below.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Direct emissions (million metric tons CO ₂ e)	3,318.4	3,169.3	3,189.4	3,203.3	3,055.7	2,990.4 ¹	2,913.1 ¹
% change in emissions from previous year	—	-4.5%	0.6%	0.4%	-4.6%	-2.1%	-2.6%

¹GHG data for the Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems source category is not directly comparable between 2011-2015 and 2016 onward. Facilities in the Onshore Oil & Gas gathering & Boosting and Onshore Gas Transmission Pipelines industry segments began reporting in 2016.

- **2018 Targeted Airshed Grant Program:** OAQPS is soliciting applications from eligible entities to compete for financial assistance through the Targeted Airshed Grant Program. This program will assist local, state and/or tribal air pollution control agencies to develop plans and conduct projects to reduce air pollution in nonattainment areas that EPA determines are the top five most polluted areas relative to O₃, annual average PM_{2.5}, or 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. The overall goal of the Targeted Airshed Grant Program is to reduce air pollution in the nation's areas with the highest levels of ozone and PM_{2.5} ambient air concentrations. The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$40,000,000. EPA anticipates awarding a total of approximately 8-12 assistance agreements from this announcement, subject to availability of funds, the quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations. The closing date for receipt of application submissions is January 4, 2019.
- **Smoke Sense App Update:** The EPA announced the Smoke Sense mobile application update is now live on Android and iOS devices for use by the public to protect their health from wildland fire smoke. EPA will host a public webinar about Smoke Sense on October 23, 2018 from 2:00-3:00 PM EDT. To participate, visit the [event page](#) to register. EPA researchers developed the citizen science mobile app called Smoke Sense as part of a public health study that will further investigate the extent to which wildland fire smoke exposure affects health and productivity, discover how people protect their health during smoke exposure, and develop health risk communication strategies that improve public health outcomes. The 2018 update includes:
 - Time of last measurement of two air pollutants present during wildfires - fine particulate matter and ozone;
 - Access to the most current information about individual fires;
 - Maps of hourly forecasts of smoke and ozone across the continental U.S.;
 - Smoke Smarts module to test your knowledge of wildfire smoke exposure; and
 - Upgraded graphics and streamlined tutorials and information buttons.
- **Fall 2018 Regulatory Plan:** OMB released the Fall 2018 Unified Agenda and Regulatory Plan. Attached is a compiled spreadsheet including OAR actions, as well as a few other actions that might be of interest to this group. Note that the file contains internal information (column I, tier level). Please do not share that data externally. October 2018 tiering is not yet complete, so actions included from that list only have a proposed tier level included. EPA's completed FY18 completed regulatory and deregulatory activities, as well as a projected FY19 accounting budget under EO 13771, are available at: <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaEO13771>. The Agenda is available at: <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>; note that using the "Search > Advanced Search" features are most useful. You may also wish to use the links embedded in the spreadsheet to view individual actions. The Plan Statement of Priorities is available at: https://www.reginfo.gov/public/jsp/eAgenda/StaticContent/201810/Statement_2000.html.

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